

Appn No. 09/609,140
Amtd. Dated December 31, 2003
Reply to Office action of October 3, 2003

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. The Applicant has carefully considered the official communication dated October 3, 2003. Applicant respectfully submits that the following remarks are fully responsive to the official communication.
2. The claims have been amended in light of the official communication. It is submitted that no new matter has been added as a result of the amendments.
3. In paragraph 3 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has stated that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 1 has been amended to introduce the limitation of claim 11 only as there are no intervening claims.
4. Claims 2 to 29 are all dependent on claim 1. It is thus respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 29 are allowable.
5. The Examiner has also stated that claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 30 has been amended to introduce the limitation of the claim 36 only as there are no intervening claims.
6. Claims 31 to 50 are all dependent on claim 30. It is thus respectfully submitted that claims 30 to 50 are allowable.
7. In paragraph 4 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner has allowed claims 51 to 53.
8. Claims 54 to 56 have been deleted.

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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